

MINT UNITED STATES.

MARCH 5, 1830.

Mr. McDUFFIE, from the Committee of Ways and Means, to which the subject had been referred; made the following

REPORT:

The Committee of Ways and Means have had under consideration the resolution referred to them relative to the extension of the Mint Establishment, and beg leave to submit the following Report:

The sum of \$120,000 was appropriated in 1829 to defray the expense of enlarging the buildings and of extending the establishment generally. This appropriation was granted with the express condition, that the sum expended, or contracted to be expended, in completing the work contemplated, should not exceed the sum thus appropriated. The agents of the Government were thus distinctly and expressly admonished not to project a scheme of improvements which should involve, either from its extent or the style of its execution, the expenditure of a sum larger than \$120,000. Notwithstanding this admonition, the Director of the Mint has commenced the work upon a scale and in a style which will involve an expenditure of \$170,000 to complete it, and asks now an additional appropriation of \$50,000. The committee are of opinion that it would be inexpedient to grant the additional appropriation solicited. It appears, however, that the sum of \$120,000 was granted to extend the existing establishment at the place where it is now situated, but that it has been found expedient to change the location, by purchasing a site in a different place. The consequence will be, that the grounds now occupied by the establishment, with their improvements, will be abandoned; and as this has rendered it necessary to purchase other grounds, perhaps of equal value, the committee think it proper to authorize the sale of the grounds and improvements now occupied by the Mint, and the application of the proceeds of such sale, to the purpose of the proposed extension of the establishment; and to this end they report a bill.